

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

February 20, 2003

TO: FAMILY PACT PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: FAMILY PACT PROGRAM LETTER 03-01
Laboratory Services: New Benefit and Deletions

The Office of Family Planning (OFP) is sending this Program Letter to emphasize changes in laboratory services **effective February 15, 2003**. Official notification was given to all providers, including laboratory providers, in a recent dedicated mailing of Medi-Cal Bulletin *Updated Information* February 2003.

The **deleted** laboratory test CPT codes are:

- 86704 Hepatitis B core antibody (HBcAb); total.
- 87340 Hepatitis B surface antigen (HbsAg).
- 87320 Infectious agent antigen detection by enzyme immunoassay (EIA) technique, Chlamydia trachomatis.

The **added** laboratory test CPT code is:

- 87800 Infectious agent detection by nucleic acid (DNA or RNA), multiple organisms, direct probe technique.

CPT Codes for Chlamydia/Gonorrhea Testing:

CPT code 87800 can be used to detect Chlamydia (CT) and/or gonorrhea (GC) using endocervical, urethral, anal and pharyngeal swabs. Test results are either “negative” or “positive” for the presence of nonspecific pathogens. Given the estimated prevalence of CT in the Family PACT Program, approximately 5% of results will be positive requiring further testing. Additional testing to identify the specific organism(s) using CPT code 87490 for CT and 87590 for GC should only be performed if CPT code 87800 is positive. **If code 87800 is negative, no further testing for GC or CT should be performed.**



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CPT code 87320, Chlamydia EIA, is deleted. There are more sensitive and specific CT tests available through the program.

Hepatitis B

According to the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Guidelines and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there is insufficient evidence that testing prior to hepatitis B vaccination is an effective public health strategy. Screening prior to vaccination is not recommended for the general public. Appropriate vaccination is a proven strategy. Consistent with this evidence, hepatitis B vaccination will continue to be a Family PACT benefit, but **hepatitis B serologies are no longer covered**.

Hepatitis B testing, diagnosis and management are beyond the scope of the program. Clients with indications for these services should be referred to other primary care or communicable disease resources. Family PACT providers are required to have an established referral network and to advise clients when services will not be covered by the program (see *Policies, Procedures and Billing Instructions* [PPBI], *familypact9* page 3).

General Policy for Laboratory Services

Laboratory tests available for each family planning method diagnosis are not to be interpreted as a required set, group or panel. Only tests for which there is client specific medical justification should be performed and submitted to Family PACT for reimbursement. Medical justification must be documented in the medical record (PPBI *familypact9* page 7).

Summary

The Family PACT Program offers a defined array of family planning reproductive health services. OFP monitors program utilization and reimbursement data to ensure that appropriate, cost-effective services are utilized. Please share this letter with all staff involved with services to Family PACT clients. You may contact Janet N. Treat, P.H.N., M.N., Chief, Clinical Services Section at (916) 654-0357, with questions or comments.

Sincerely,

[Original signed by]

Anna Ramirez, M.P.H., Chief
Office of Family Planning